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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK289
TO RODMAN/LORD FOR DR KISSINGER
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FEBRUARY 20, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGE IS A REPORT QUOTING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS SAYING THAT THE U.S. HAS TOLD SOUVANNA PHOUMA THAT IT WILL HALT ALL BOMBING IN LAOS ON FEBRUARY 25. THE RATIONALE FOR THE DEADLINE, THE SOURCES SAID, IS THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT WANT TO ENTER THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINA WHILE U.S. PLANES ARE STILL BOMBING LAOS. (A-1)

THE POLITICAL CONTACTS IN PARIS BETWEEN SAIGON AND VIET CONG REPRESENTATIVES HAVE STALLED AROUND THE INSISTENCE OF THE COMMUNISTS THAT THEY BE AFFORDED STATUS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF A SEPARATE GOVERNMENT. RELIABLE SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOURCES IN SAIGON SAID. ONE WAY TO GET AROUND THE PROBLEM, SOURCES SAY, WOULD BE TO HOLD THE TALKS IN SOME NEUTRAL CAPITAL OUTSIDE SOUTH VIETNAM. THUS IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO RESOLVE HOW THE PRG SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ELECTION UNTIL OTHER DIFFICULTIES ARE OVERCOME. (A-9)

CORRESPONDENT DON OBERDORFER, IN A REPORT ON YOUR TOKYO VISIT, SAID THAT THE STOPOVER APPEARED TO BE INTENDED LARGELY AS A SYMBOLIC DISPLAY OF U.S. REASSURANCE TO ITS MOST IMPORTANT ASIAN ALLY. OBERDORFER ALSO SAID THAT YOU ASKED THE JAPANESE FOR SPECIAL COOPERATION IN PREVENTING PRESS LEAKS ABOUT THE ~~SAIGON TALKS~~ TALKS, ON THE GROUNDS THAT YOU HAD NOT YET REPORTED TO THE PRESIDENT. THIS APPEARED TO BE SUCCESSFUL TO A LARGE DEGREE IN KEEPING DETAILS OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE UBIQUITOUS JAPANESE PRESS, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. (A-14)

CHOU EN-LAI DESCRIBED HIS TALKS WITH YOU AS "VERY GOOD." HE MADE THE COMMENT TO NEWSMEN LESS THAN 12 HOURS AFTER YOUR DEPARTURE, ACCORDING TO REUTERS. CHOU AND OTHER CHINESE LEADERS LOOKED BUOYANT AND CONFIDENT AS THEY ATTENDED A BANQUET FOR MRS. BHUTTO. (A-14)

PRIME MINISTER TANAKA EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S "GRAVE REGRET" OVER LAST WEEK'S DECISION TO FLOAT THE YEN. TANAKA'S STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT WAS MADE TO BREAK A DEADLOCK CAUSED BY OPPOSITION

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DEMANDS FOR DEBATE ON THE YEN ISSUE. AS PART OF A COMPROMISE, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO AGREED TO SET ASIDE TWO DAYS FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. (A-17)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TERENCE SMITH DISCUSSES THE BUILDING OF A NEW HIGHWAY ALONG THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK THAT COULD ULTIMATELY LINK JERUSALEM WITH THE UPPER JORDAN VALLEY. ACCORDING TO SMITH, NO WORD OF THE PROJECT HAS APPEARED IN THE ISRAELI PRESS SINCE CONSTRUCTION BEGAN LAST NOVEMBER, NOTING THAT THE HIGHWAY WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH A CONTROVERSIAL PLAN PROPOSED BY DEPUTY PREMIER ALLON THAT ENVISIONS AN ISRAELI PARAMILITARY "SECURITY BELT" ON THE WEST BANK. (A-3)

MALCOLM BROWNE REPORTS FROM VIENTIANE THAT PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY CEASE-FIRE APPEARED TO HAVE RECEDED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE FACE OF HARDENED DEMANDS ON THE ONE HAND BY RIGHTIST POLITICIANS AND GENERALS, AND ON THE OTHER BY THE COMMUNIST PLF. HE STATES THAT WHILE THE U.S. HAS INDUCED PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA TO TAKE A HARDER LINE WITH THE PLF, IT HAS REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED ITS COMPLETE SUPPORT OF HIM AND HAS MADE IT KNOWN THAT NO AMERICAN SUPPORT WOULD GO TO ANY GROUP THAT MIGHT DISLODGE HIM. NEVERTHELESS, NO LAOTIAN PREMIER HAS EVER LONG SURVIVED OPPOSITION BY HIS GENERALS. (A-5)

RICHARD HALLORAN STATES THAT YOUR RECEPTION IN TOKYO WAS PROPER AND COOL, IN SOME CONTRAST TO THE CORDIAL GREETING YOU RECEIVED IN CHINA. FOREIGN MINISTER CHIRA INDICATED THAT YOU HAD NOT DISCLOSED MUCH ABOUT YOUR LONG CONVERSATIONS WITH MAO AND CHOU, ADDING THAT SINCE YOU HAD NOT YET BRIEFED THE PRESIDENT, THERE WAS MUCH THAT COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED. (A-6)

THE LEAD EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT MONETARY SITUATION AND SUGGESTS THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS TO START TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY RESERVE SYSTEM THAT CAN SUSTAIN NATIONAL CURRENCIES WHILE REQUIRING ORDERLY CHANGE IN EXCHANGE RATES. ACCORDINGLY, IT CONCLUDES THAT IT WOULD ONLY EXACERBATE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TENSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES IF THIS NATION WERE TO TRY TO COMPEL OTHERS TO GO ON LIVING INDEFINITELY UNDER THE DOLLAR STANDARD, OPERATING WITHOUT GENUINE INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION AND SAFEGUARDS. (A-28)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

A PICTURE OF YOU TALKING WITH TANAKA APPEARS ON PAGE 1. YOUR TALKS REPORTEDLY CONCERNED JAPANESE AID TO INDOCHINA, U.S. AND

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JAPANESE POLICY TOWARD CHINA, AND U.S.-JAPANESE RELATIONS. NO DETAILS OF THE TALKS ARE AVAILABLE, HOWEVER. (A-1)

MICHAEL PARKS DISCUSSES THE PROSPECTS FOR THE SELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA. DIVISIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERSHIP LEAVES THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENCY GOING TO SEVERAL PEOPLE. PARKS DISCUSSES THESE POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT SVOBODA, GUSTAV HUSAK, AND ALOIS INDRA. (A-1)

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY REFUSED PERMISSION FOR ORGANIZERS OF A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ON AMNESTY FOR AMERICAN DESERTERS AND DRAFT RESISTERS TO HOLD THEIR CONFERENCE IN PARIS, SAYING THAT THE MEETING MIGHT "TROUBLE THE GOOD THAT FRANCE HAS SOUGHT TO CREATE FOR THE VIETNAM PEACE TALKS AND FOR THE COMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM." (A-2)

PRESIDENT MARCOS IS REPORTEDLY STUDYING A POSSIBLE GENERAL AMNESTY FOR THREE DISSIDENT GROUPS HAMPERING PHILIPPINE UNITY IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNITE THE COUNTRY. THE THREE GROUPS INCLUDE ARMED MUSLIM SECESSIONISTS IN THE SOUTH, PRO-COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS IN THE NORTH, AND THOSE ACCUSED OF PLOTTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND HIS LIFE. 7(A-2& 1368

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